

CASE REPORT

Local application of bisphosphonate as a biochemical barrier against bone graft resorption in mandibular reconstruction

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JI Denta No 1, Sekip Utara, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; ✉ correspondence: yustisiahasan@ugm.ac.idSubmitted: 11st March 2019; Revised: 22nd May 2019; Accepted: 3rd October 2019ABSTRACT**

Mandibular reconstruction to restore functions and aesthetics after mandibular resection remains a major surgical challenge. This type of reconstruction using non-vascularized autogenous bone graft harvested from iliac bone has been popular given that this bone is numerous and donor site morbidity can be minimized, however, it is highly resorbable. Local application of bisphosphonate by immersing bone graft in bisphosphonate manages to inhibit bone graft resorption prior to the formation of new bone to support the osteogenesis and osteointegration of bone grafts. This paper aimed at examining the positive results of iliac bone graft osteogenesis and osteointegration following local application of bisphosphonate in mandibular reconstruction. A 22-year-old female patient came with a complaint of painless right cheek mass that has swollen slowly since 2 years. Radiographic examination showed cloudy radiolucent images in the right mandibular corpus to the right mandibular ramus, while histopathological examination indicated ossifying fibroma. Patient underwent mandibular resection followed by iliac bone graft-based mandibular reconstruction. Bone graft was immersed with bisphosphonate (zoledronate acid 0.005 mg /ml) for 3 minutes, then rinsed with saline for 3 minutes, followed by fixing bone graft on the reconstruction plate. Postoperative follow up in the 36th week showed no signs of infection and dehiscence in the surgery site, and the radiographic examination indicated signs of osteogenesis and osteointegration of mandibular bone graft. Local application of bisphosphonate on bone graft promotes favorable results of osteogenesis and osteointegration in mandibular reconstruction.

Keywords: bisphosphonate; bone graft; mandibular reconstruction; osteogenesis; osteointegration**INTRODUCTION**

Mandible is an essential anatomical structure for the physiological and aesthetic functions of humans. Therefore, any mandibular defects caused by tumors, malignancy, trauma, osteomyelitis, and osteoradionecrosis will considerably affect patient's quality of life. Hemimandibulectomy, a type of mandibular resection may result in mandibular defects leading to mandibular dysfunctions.¹ The mandibular defects after hemimandibulectomy require reconstructions to restore mandibular aesthetics and functions.²

Mandibular reconstruction can be done by using reconstruction plate and iliac bone-derived non vascularized autogenous bone graft.³ The plate mostly used for mandibular reconstruction

is a rigid plate that is applied along the inferior mandibular margin.⁴ Among the advantages of non-vascularized autogenous bone graft involving iliac bone include the availability in large quantities (50 - 90 cm³), shorter surgical and recovery period, no need for microvascular surgery skills, simultaneous surgery by 2 teams, minimal donor site morbidity, minimal patient's scar, various forms of harvest (block or particulate, cortical and cortico-cancellous), while the disadvantages are weak osteogenesis and excessive resorption in defects over 6 cm caused by the origin of endochondral and cortico-cancellous morphology.^{5,6}

Bisphosphonate is a preparation for minimizing osteoclast activity when in contact with bone surfaces, especially in subjects with active resorption where

biphosphonate works as a biochemical barrier for bone resorption. Biphosphonate may also inhibit resorption in bone graft. Studies involving experimental animals with biphosphonate-locally applied bone graft showed the ability to protect graft from resorption without affecting other skeletal bones.⁷

Local application of biphosphonate to bone graft succeeds in inhibiting excessive bone graft resorption and fostering new bone formation (osteogenesis). This article reported clinical and radiological evaluations of bone graft osteogenesis after local application of biphosphonate to hemimandibulectomy-post mandibular reconstruction.

METHODS

A 23-year-old female patient came to the oral surgery department of Dr. Sardjito General Hospital to check her right cheek swelling and numbness in her right lip. Clinical examination showed a facial asymmetry; there was swelling in the mandibular ramus area which was hard in consistency, and there was an area with an increase in excitatory threshold on the cheek of the inferior mandibular margin and paresthesia in the right lower lip. The intraoral examination indicated an swelling in the rough-surfaced lingual bone of region 44 to 48 with the same gingival color as the surrounding tissue Figure 1.

Panoramic radiograph showed the presence of cloud of smoke in radiolucent lesions in the mandibular corpus region until the right mandibular ramus along with bone expansion and uneven

angular inferior margin and resorption of tooth 46 and 47 roots. Examination of 3D MSCT showed lesions in the mandibular ramus to the right mandibular subcondyle and bone destruction occurred in the corpus lingual side to the right mandibular ramus Figure 2. The examination of anatomic pathology showed trabecular-arranged bone tissue with osteoblastic rimming, connective tissue stroma with proliferation of fibroblasts, which was declared as ossifying fibroma.

This case was diagnosed as right mandibular ossifying fibroma. Right mandibular hemimandibulectomy and mandibular reconstruction were chosen as the treatment involving reconstruction plate and non-vascularized autogenous bone graft derived from the iliac bone along with local application of biphosphonate on the bone graft. The surgery was carried out in collaboration with the orthopedic department to harvest a 3 cm x 5 cm x 1.5 cm iliac graft.

Hemimandibulectomy was performed by cutting the mandible from the tooth region 44, followed by mandibular reconstruction with mounted reconstruction plate. Harvested iliac graft was soaked in biphosphonate preparation, zoledronate 0.005 mg/ ml for 3 minutes, after which it was rinsed with saline. The graft was then fitted to the reconstruction plate with the cortical side facing the reconstruction plate Figure 3. The patient underwent inpatient post-operative treatment for 4 days and intermaxillary wiring was fixed and retained for 6 weeks.



Figure 1. (A) facial asymmetry, (B) area with an increased excitatory threshold, (C) area of paresthesia, (D) swelling of uneven-surfaced lingual bone of region 44 to 48

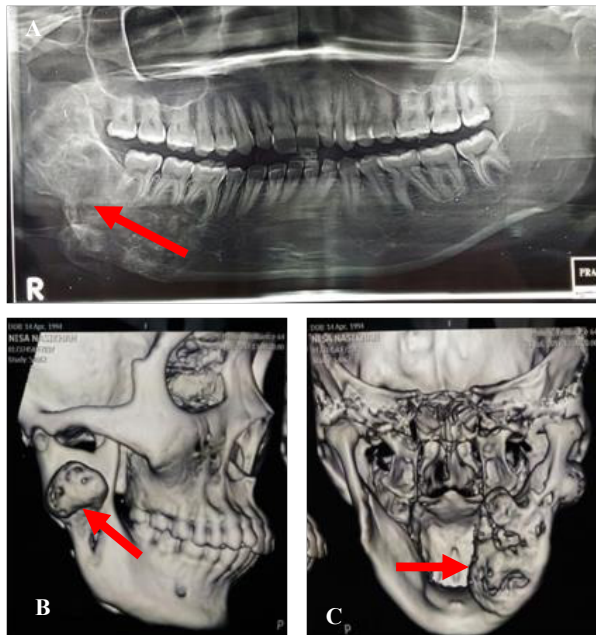


Figure 2. (A) Diffuse cloud of smoke lesions on the ascending corpus-ramus in right mandibular angles (red arrow), (B) and (C) lesions of bone destruction in the lingual side of the corpus to the right ascending in the right mandible (red arrow).

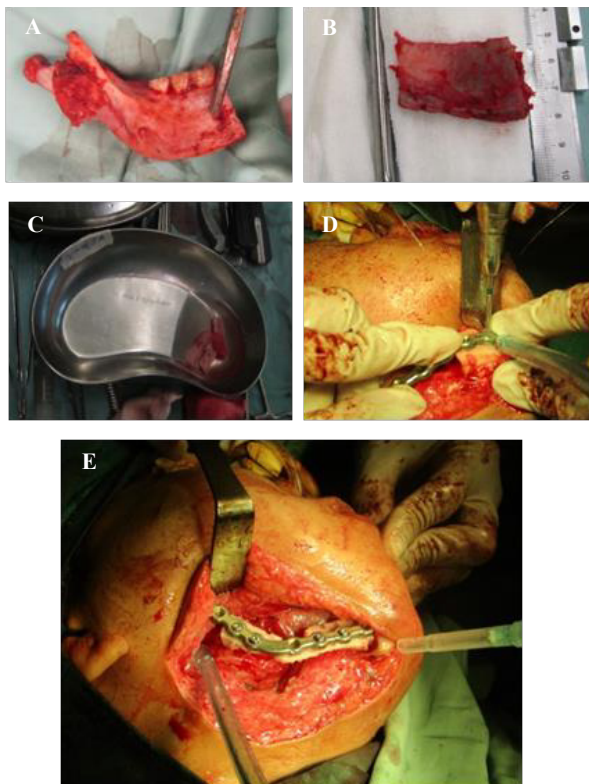


Figure 3. (A) hemimandibulectomy-post mandibular segment, (B) bicortical iliac bone graft, (C) iliac graft soaked in Zometa for 3 minutes, subsequently rinsed with 0.9% NaCl, (D) mounted bridge plate on healthy bone with a 3-hole 2.4x10mm screw, (E) fitting iliac graft into the reconstruction plate.

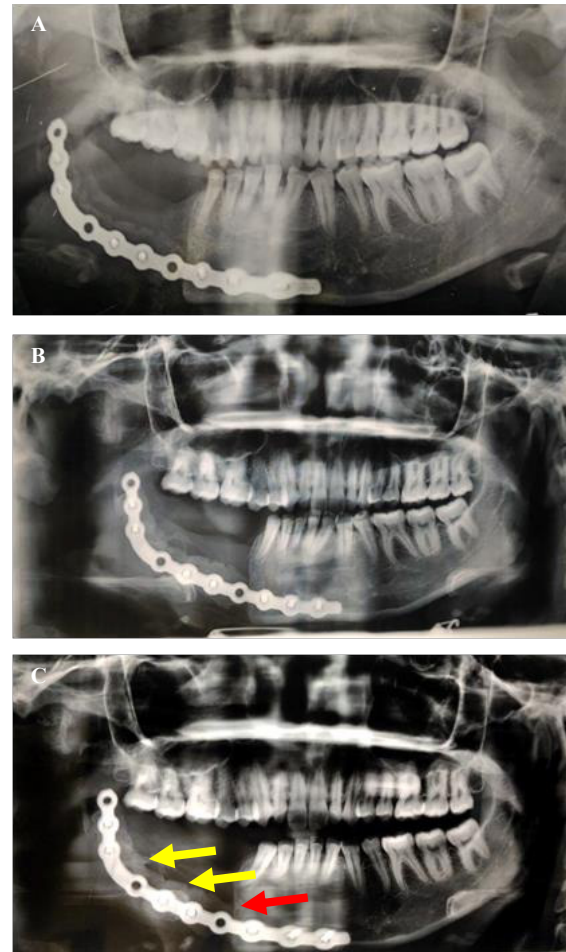


Figure 4. (A) panoramic x-ray of mandibular reconstruction taken in week 12 post-operative, (B) panoramic x-ray of mandibular reconstruction taken in week 24 post-operative, (C) panoramic x-ray of mandibular reconstruction taken in week 36 post-operative showed osteointegration in the mandibular bone with graft (red arrow) and signs of osteogenesis along the graft (yellow arrow)

Clinical evaluation in week 6 following the removal of the intermaxillary wiring showed neither dehiscence nor signs of intraoral and extraoral infection and left side occlusion was well formed. Evaluation of the panoramic radiographs taken in week 12 and 24 postoperative showed that a reconstruction plate was fitted to the right mandible and a graft image along the reconstruction plate with minimal graft resorption was seen. In week 36 postoperative, the panoramic radiograph was evaluated, resulting in signs of osteointegration in the mandibular bone with graft in the distal area of tooth 43, and signs of osteogenesis along the graft attached to the reconstruction plate Figure 4.

DISCUSSION

Hemimandibulectomy is highly likely to result in mandibular defects. Mandibular reconstruction to restore the patient's anatomical function and shape must be done immediately after resection.^{8,9} Hemimandibulectomy, the radical resection along with reconstruction was opted for this case by considering lesions with the involvement of the lingual and buccal sides from the mandibular corpus to the right mandibular ascending ramus.

Ossifying fibroma is a benign tumor that belongs to a type of fibro-osseous lesion. Women, in their twenties, are more prone to this fibroma than men. Ossifying fibroma is most commonly found in the mandible especially in the posterior area or molar region.¹⁰

Ossifying fibroma is slow but persistent in nature and causes expansion and the thinning of the buccal and lingual cortical layers to the lower mandibular inferior margin. This fibroma triggers no pain but paresthesia when occurring in the nerve structures. The oral epithelium will remain intact unless there is a secondary infection.¹⁰⁻¹²

Lesion of ossifying fibroma must be completely excised from the surrounding bone because of the high recurrence risk and proneness to malignancy.¹³ The possible method for treating ossifying fibroma is surgical excision for small-sized lesions with clear boundaries, whereas large ones require radical surgery by involving the boundaries of surrounding healthy tissue and reconstruction.^{11,14} Hemimandibulectomy-based radical resection along with reconstruction was chosen to fit the condition of bone destruction and recurrence risk.

The opted method of mandibular reconstruction was a titanium plate, with non-vascularized autogenous bone graft derived from the iliac bone. Mandibular reconstruction plates and screw are the most widely used alloplastic materials for the reconstruction of the mandibular defects. The method is an easy, reliable procedure, and can be used for subsequent rehabilitation.^{15,16}

Iliac bone serves as a graft donor for this case because it is numerous and relatively low in morbidity. Given that iliac bone is far from the

facial region, it is possible for two teams to operate simultaneously for efficient surgery.¹⁷

Prior to implantation, iliac bone graft was measured and shaped to fit into the reconstruction plate. The iliac graft was immersed in zometa solution 0.005 mg/ ml for 3 minutes, after which it was rinsed with normal saline. Zometa is a trademark for biphosphonate preparation which contains zoledronate, a part of amino biphosphonate, with nitrogen in the atomic chain of atoms and molecule. The local application of zoledronate-derived biphosphonate is expected to inhibit the excessive bone graft recession which occur before osteogenesis during bone graft. Local application of zoledronate 0.005 mg/ ml in bone graft was done by immersing the graft for 3 minutes, followed by rinsing for 3 minutes in the experimental animal and resulted in slow resorption in the bone graft and an increase in new bone formation around the graft.¹⁸

Nitrogen-containing biphosphonates such as pamidronate, olpadronate, ibandronate, alendronate, risedronate and zoledronate have a working mechanism that inhibits farnesyl diphosphate synthesis which causes failure of prenylation (fatty acid chain transfer) of various intracellular proteins, especially small GTP binding protein (Trimeric G-protein). Prenylation failure will trigger a premature apoptotic process of osteoclast cells resulting in inability for bone resorption.^{18,19}

Experimental studies showed that application of biphosphonate can be performed by systemic administration of biphosphonate or local application of biphosphonate. One of the problems associated with systemic administration of biphosphonate is the development of microcracks, which might be caused by excessive mineralization. Another problem associated with systemic bisphosphonate treatment is osteonecrosis of the jaw. It was suggested that the incidence of osteonecrosis of the jaw is higher in zoledronic acid treatment than in treatment using other bisphosphonates. Systemic administration of bisphosphonates only reach vascularized bone and the necrotic, non-vascularized bonegraft can only be reached by the bisphosphonate once it has been revascularised. Furthermore, blocking necrotic bone resorption, as in the case of a bone graft, may

require higher local concentrations, which may be difficult to achieve with systemic treatment. Such problems would be solved if the graft could be treated by local application of biphosphonate before implantation.^{20,21}

Experimental studies of bone graft locally applied with biphosphonate showed the ability to protect graft from resorption without any effects on other skeletal bones.⁷ Locally applied biphosphonate with zometa (zoledronate 0.005mg/ml) for 3 minutes in experimental dogs resulted in an increase in new bone formation in the group applied with zometa compared to the control group.^{7,18,22} Local application of biphosphonate to alveolar bone defect is able to minimize alveolar bone resorption and improve new bone formation in the alveolar defect and foster the regeneration capacity of biomaterials and bone density.

Topical application of amino-biphosphonate solution to bone defects or post-extraction socket, either alone or combined with a bone graft, is a risk-free procedure as biphosphonate contributes to the initial phase of bone healing and is absorbed mainly by the attached bone so tiny amount may be released into circulation.²²

Unfortunately, there are only few studies on local application of biphosphonate in humans. In the previous study, it was done by immersing the allograft bone in 10 ml Bonefos (disodium clodronate) in a dose of 60 mg/ml for 3 minutes then rinsed with 500 ml normal saline in pelvic revision surgery. The 24th month postoperative control showed that rinsing morselized bone graft soaked in biphosphonate could prevent resorption and minimize the risk of mechanical failure, whereas in the control group, the graft experienced resorption after 3 months.^{7,20}

Radiographic evaluation of post-reconstruction mandibular bone graft in the 36th week postoperative showed minimal bone graft resorption and signs of osteogenesis along the surface of the bone graft and osteointegration occurred in the mandibular bone with graft in the distal area of tooth 43. The clinical evaluation indicated that locally-applied biphosphonate was proven to minimize complications in the soft tissue or hard tissue around the bone graft.

CONCLUSION

Local application of biphosphonate by immersing iliac bone graft in biphosphonate preparations used in mandibular reconstruction-post hemimandibulectomy is proven to inhibit premature bone graft resorption and increase osteogenesis along the bone graft surface and osteointegration of bone graft. The use of locally-applied biphosphonate is proven to minimize complications in the soft tissue or hard tissue around bone graft.

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